

Opening Statement of
John T. Conway, Chairman
July 18, 1995

For the record, my name is John Conway and I am the Chairman of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, and I will preside over this meeting being reconvened and continued from the open meeting conducted on May 31, 1995, to deliberate on DOE's standards-based safety management program.

At this time, I would like to introduce the members of the Safety Board that are present here today. Dr. A.J. Eggenberger, who is Vice Chairman of the Board, is on my immediate left, and to his left is Mr. Joseph DiNunno. To my immediate right is Mr. Jack Crawford, and to his right is Dr. Herbert Kouts. We five constitute the Board.

The Board's General Counsel, Robert Andersen, and the Board's General Manager, Kenneth Pusateri, are also to my left. Dr. George Cunningham, the Board's Technical Director, is also present here at the table on my right. Members of our technical staff are present in this room in the event we need to ask any additional questions of them.

This meeting was publicly noticed in the *Federal Register* on June 23, 1995. The meeting here today is held open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

The Board is required by law to review and evaluate the content and implementation of safety standards relating to the design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of defense nuclear facilities of the Department of Energy.

The Board, acting pursuant to its enabling statute, has issued a series of recommendations (most notably 90-2 and 94-5) designed to foster the development of an effective standards-based nuclear safety program within DOE. The Secretary of Energy has accepted each of these Recommendations. In the meantime, DOE is engaged in a number of initiatives designed to simplify existing safety Orders and the promulgation of new rules.

The Secretary of Energy's commitment to implementing these recommendations calling for an effective standards-based safety program will require careful integration with these recent DOE initiatives.

This meeting here today is held to continue our consideration of the essential elements of a safety management program that is standards-based and to review DOE's progress in developing such a program.

The Board's purpose is to lay the groundwork for a full assessment of how Standards/Requirements Identification Documents, also called S/RIDs, the rules and Orders and other safety requirements are integrated into an overall safety management program for defense nuclear facilities.

To assist the Board and inform the public, individual Board members will present their views, and the Board's staff will brief the Board on related topics, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Status of staff reviews of DOE revisions to safety Orders and rules.
2. Approaches to development and implementation of standards-based safety programs for DOE nuclear weapons research and development activities.

I request that all presenters take appropriate measures to safeguard any classified or controlled nuclear information presented at this meeting. There may be times when complete answers to our questions may include classified or controlled information, which I understand you cannot and should not make public.

As stated in our *Federal Register* notice, the Board also intends to notice and conduct public hearings pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 2286b at a later date to assess the Department of Energy's progress in implementing an effective standards-based safety program for DOE's defense nuclear facilities and to ensure that DOE's activities in streamlining DOE's nuclear safety Order system, and converting to a regulatory program, do not eliminate the engineering practices now codified in DOE's safety Orders that are necessary and essential to adequately protect public health and safety.

A transcript of this proceeding will be made available by the Board for inspection by the public at the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Washington office and at the DOE's public reading rooms.

The Board reserves its right to further schedule and otherwise regulate the course of these meetings and hearings, to recess, reconvene, postpone or adjourn the meeting, and otherwise exercise its power under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended,

That concludes my opening remarks, and I would ask if any of my colleagues on the Board wish to make any other remarks at this time?